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SMALLPOX, CHOLERA EPIDEMIC IN SOUTH ASIA HARBOR AREAS -- Wen-hui Pao, 8 Feb 50

Kuang-chou, 8 February -- On 8 February 1950, the Kuang-chou Port Quarantine Station announced that smallpox epidemics are now prevalent in the harbor areas of T'ien-ching, Shan-t'ou, Nan-ching, Wu-Han, Rangoon, Bombay and that there is cholera as well as smallpox epidemic in Calcutta.

All harbor residents going to or coming from the affected areas shall be required to take preventive inoculations; all residents in the Kuang-chou--Shan-t'ou region shall be required to be vaccinated against smallpox, the announcement pointed out.

STARTS ANTIFAMINE CAMPAIGN IN CENTRAL, SOUTH CHINA -- Wen-hui Pao, 9 Feb 50

Han-k'ou, 7 February (Hsin-hua) -- All levels of the people's governments have been directing the antifamine production and relief campaign in the calamity-stricken areas of Honan, Hupeh, Hunan, and Kiangsi provinces which were struck by flood, drought, hail, and insects last year. The unprecedented calamities affected about one sixth of the total arable acreage and some 10 million people.

More than one million people have found means of sustaining livelihood by participating in various production works. The local authorities are rendering relief work by selling their handicraft products, by establishing cooperatives, and by paying their wages with provisions.

In Honan Province, 1,100,000,000 yuan was appropriated for production and relief work. The afflicted people in the cotton-growing areas of Lo-yang Hsien have taken up cloth making and are now producing 100 rolls of cloth each month. In Hsin-cheng and Ch'ang-ko Hsiens, some 6,000 people have earned 1,200,000 catties of grain for making ballast for the Cheng-chou Railroad Bureau. In Huang-ch'uan region, many afflicted people are making charcoal or gathering herbs and iron ores. Still to be accounted for are the 378 families in Wei-yao village where only one family out of six has enough food to last until the harvest.

In Hupeh Province where one family out of ten lacks food, 200,000 catties of provisions were provided to help the destitute. In Mien-yang Special District, people have taken up fishing, wood-cutting, net-making, and dike repairing. They have earned 35 million catties of rice which is sufficient to feed one million people for 2 months. The Ministry of Water Conservation of the Central People's government has allotted 20 million catties of grain for repairing the Hung Chiang banks.

In Hunan and Kiangsi provinces, most of the calamity-stricken people are participating in the repair of river and lake banks and in drainage work. More than 100,000 people in Kiangsi Province are now repairing the banks of the P'oyang Hu. To assure winter and spring planting and cultivation, many people in Hunan and Kiangsi are making farm land productive by participating in drainage work. Some 500,000 mou of land in An-hsing Hsien of Hunan Province was thus made productive. The fields were immediately sown with fast-maturing crops such as wheat, rape, peas, and broad beans to forestall the impending famine.

STARTS PRODUCTION AND RELIEF WORK IN NORTHWEST -- Wen-hui Pao, 12 Feb 50

Hsi-an, 11 February -- On 9 February 1950, the Northwest Military and Political Commission issued a directive for all responsible personnel to direct the production and relief work in calamity areas to prevent famine.

- 2 -

CONFIDENTIAL

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50X1-HUM

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Last year, natural calamities and war inflicted serious damages to various areas in Northwest China and affected some 900,000 people. At present, the people in Kuan-chung, Lin-hsia, and Chin-chi special districts, in Shensi, Kansu, and Ningsia provinces, respectively, are faced with serious food shortage.

ESTABLISHES CENTRAL RELIEF COMMITTEE -- Hua-ch'iao Jih-pao, 8 Mar 50

Pei-p'ing, 27 February (Hsin-hua) -- On 27 February 1950, the Ministry of Interior of the Central People's government, held a meeting and decided to establish the Central Relief Committee. The main function of the Committee is to direct production and relief programs in the calamity-stricken areas of China to prevent famine.

Tung Pi-wu was appointed the chairman of the committee. Other appointees are: deputy chairmen, Po I-po, and three others; and committee members, Ch'en Ch'i-yuan and ten others.

- E N D -

- 3 -

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